

The PSTN was originally designed and constructed by a monopolistic system. As such the investment in fiber, copper, CO's, etc is enormous and cannot be duplicated using today's private capital sources. The RBOC is a direct descendant of the original monopoly and as such has a *huge* competitive advantage in rolling out broadband services on copper/PSTN. In allowing the BellSouth to ultimately disallow the access that independent ISPs have is actually the most uncompetitive action that the FCC can make. Please keep regulating broadband for the benefit of the marketplace and don't let the incumbent RBOC leverage past monopolies to quash competition. Disallow BellSouth's petition now.